

LESSON 6

FIRST MUSLIMS

Early Years of Prophethood

Muhammad (S), son of Abdullah, the orphaned and illiterate boy of Makkah, was now Muhammad, Rasulullah, Allah's messenger and prophet, and a teacher for mankind.

For those who believed in him, he was no longer Muhammad but Rasul-ullah, through whom Allah had guided them to His chosen faith of Islam. For some time, Rasulullah (S) was scared and worried. The experience of Hira and its effects were still fresh in his mind. Then he developed a desire to receive more *Wahi*. During those days, Rasulullah (S) kept himself covered with blankets because of his worries. Then came the second *Wahi* telling him,

O' you, wrapped in the blankets,
stand up and warn.
Magnify your Lord,
clean your clothes
and keep from all unclean practices.

al-Mudaththir 74:1-5

The time of waiting for Rasulullah (S) was in fact a time for his preparation to receive the Quran. No human soul could bear the burden of the divine message. It needed special cleaning — purification and preparation — for a human heart to be ready to receive Allah's word. It is not even easy for mountains to bear this burden. Allah says in the Quran,

If we had sent down this Quran on a mountain, You, O Muhammad, would indeed have seen it humbled and cracked with the fear of Allah.

al-Hashr 59:21

[Rasulullah (S) was now ready to receive further revelations and stand up for the cause of Allah. He was given a clear message. He was the last prophet and messenger of Allah and must teach about *Tawhid*, (Allah's Oneness) and invite all to the right path of Islam. Angel Jibril visited him more frequently and taught him what he had not known before. He received the divine knowledge, which no other human being possessed.]

Rasulullah (S) first informed his family and closest friends that he was Rasulullah. He invited them to Islam. They knew him well. His wife, Khadijah, was the first woman; Ali, his cousin, was the first youth; Abu Bakr, his friend, was the first man; and Zaid, his freed slave, was the first slave to accept Islam. All of them accepted Islam because they knew Rasulullah (S) very well. They believed in him and knew whatever he spoke was always the truth.

People who became Muslims during the Prophet's life-time and saw him are called *Sahabah*, the companions (one companion is called *Sahabi*). *Sahabah* saw Rasulullah (S) and received their Islam directly from Rasulullah (S). They struggled with him for the cause of Islam. Allah was pleased with them. They are honored by all the Muslims. When Muslims hear any one of them being mentioned, they say, "*Radi Allahu Ta'ala 'anhu*," (May Allah be pleased with him).³

A few more people accepted Islam through the efforts of Rasulullah and his *Sahabah*. The names of some of the prominent *Sahabah* of this period are: Uthman Ghani(R), Zubair(R), Abd al-Rahman(R), Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas(R), and Talha(R). All these were early Muslims and played an important role in the history of Islam. In the first three years, Rasulullah(S) trained his *Sahabah* spiritually for the great future task of Islam. The future would tell us how perfect this training was and how these people benefitted from their close relation to Rasulullah(S).

Points of review:

1. After a waiting period, Rasulullah (S) received the second *Wahi*, which asked him to stand up for the cause of Allah.
2. Some of his family and close friends accepted Islam.
3. These *Sahabah* received Rasulullah's training and played an important role in the history of Islam.

Words to remember:

Sahabi, Sahabiyah, Tawhid

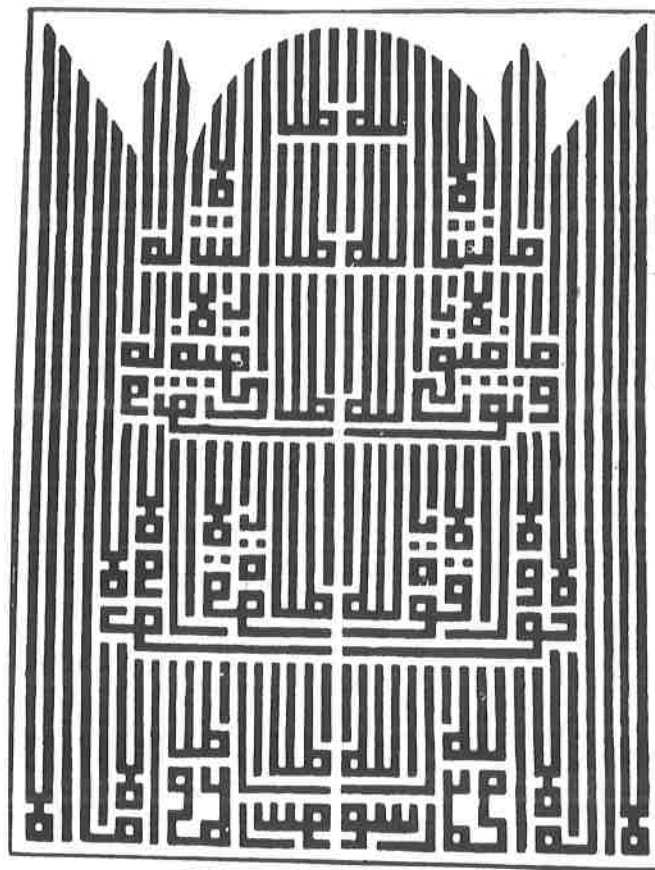
³Blessings for a *sahabiyah* (woman companion) is "*Radi Allahu Taala anaha*" (May Allah be pleased with her.) For *Sahabah* in general is "*Radi Allahu Taala anhum*" (May Allah be pleased with them). An (R) after the names of the prophet's companions is a reminder to invoke Allah's blessings for them.

Important names

Abd al-Rahman(R), Abu Bakr(R), Ali(R), Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas(R), Talha(R), Uthman(R), Zaid(R), Zubair(R).

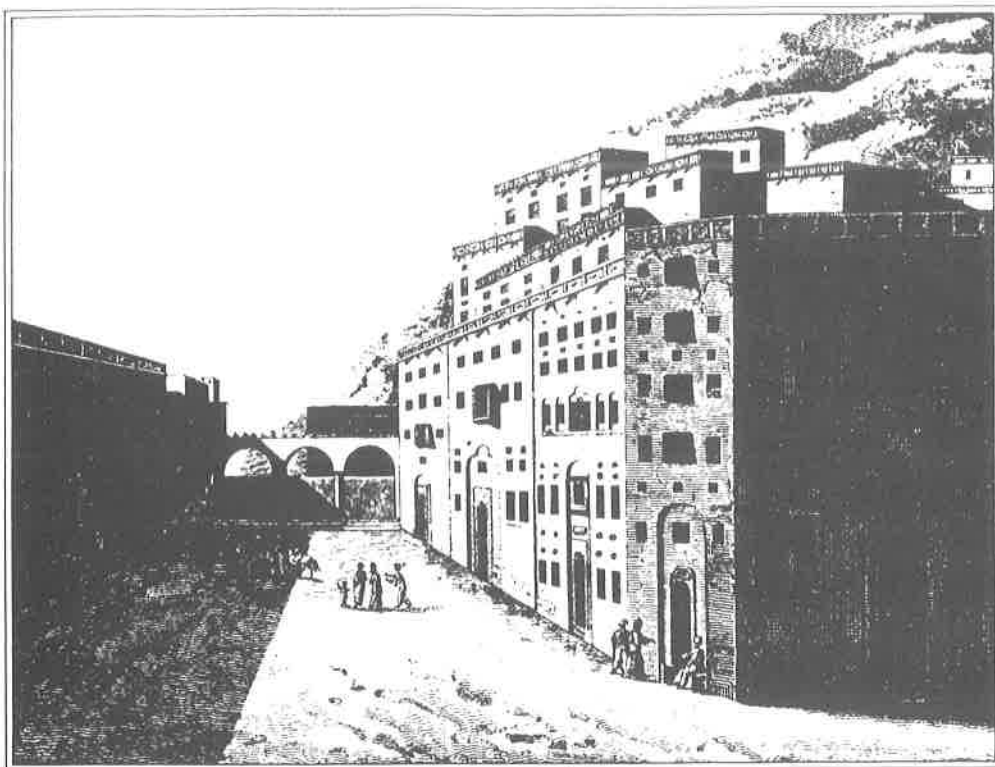
Quranic Study

Read *Surah Muzammil* 73: 1-10 and *Surah Mudaththir* 74: 1-7. Allah is asking his prophet to prepare himself for his prophetic mission. What are those requirements? Can these also help an Islamic worker in his mission?

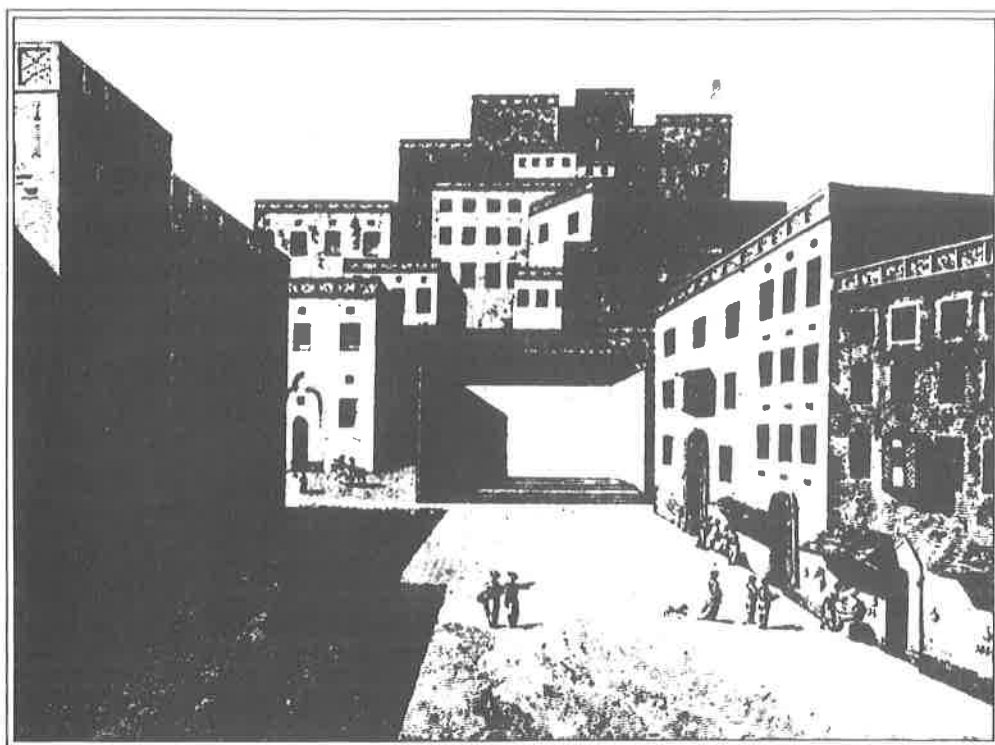


Lo! (the mountains) As-Safā and
Al-Marwah are among the indications of
Allah.

إِنَّ الصَّفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللَّهِ



The hillock al-Safa, Mecca (Aly Bey)



The hillock al-Marwa, Mecca (Aly Bey)

A Nineteenth Century view of Safa and Marwah